

# WORLD WAR II

TURNING POINT OF THE  
20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

▶ “...to a degree, history is literature...”

▶ “...a dialogue of the present with the past...”

▶ General William Odom

July 10, 2007

*Reinterpreting Barbarossa*

# NATIONAL MYTHS AND THE WORLD WAR II EXPERIENCE

- Each European nation has its own myths regarding WWII...

# FRANCE

- DeGaulle and the Resistance





# EASTERN EUROPE

- ...anti-Fascist fighters in Poland...

The uprising in Warsaw, which broke out on 1 August 1944



# GERMANY

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- Justification...following orders...we're good people...
- The Holocaust...we did not know...
- DDR: the Fascists (capitalists) lost, allowing the Socialists to create the worker/farmer German state...



**USSR/RUSSIA**

**“THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR...”**

- For the USSR, World War II was the seminal event. It validated Communism and Stalin and made Russia one of the two superpowers.

# *LET'S MAKE A DEAL*

- 1923: Soviet-German secret liaison
  - Set up tank school
  - Aviation school
  - Chemical weapons school in Moscow
- Enabled Germans to teach Russians and Germans to train beyond the limit of 100,000 soldiers

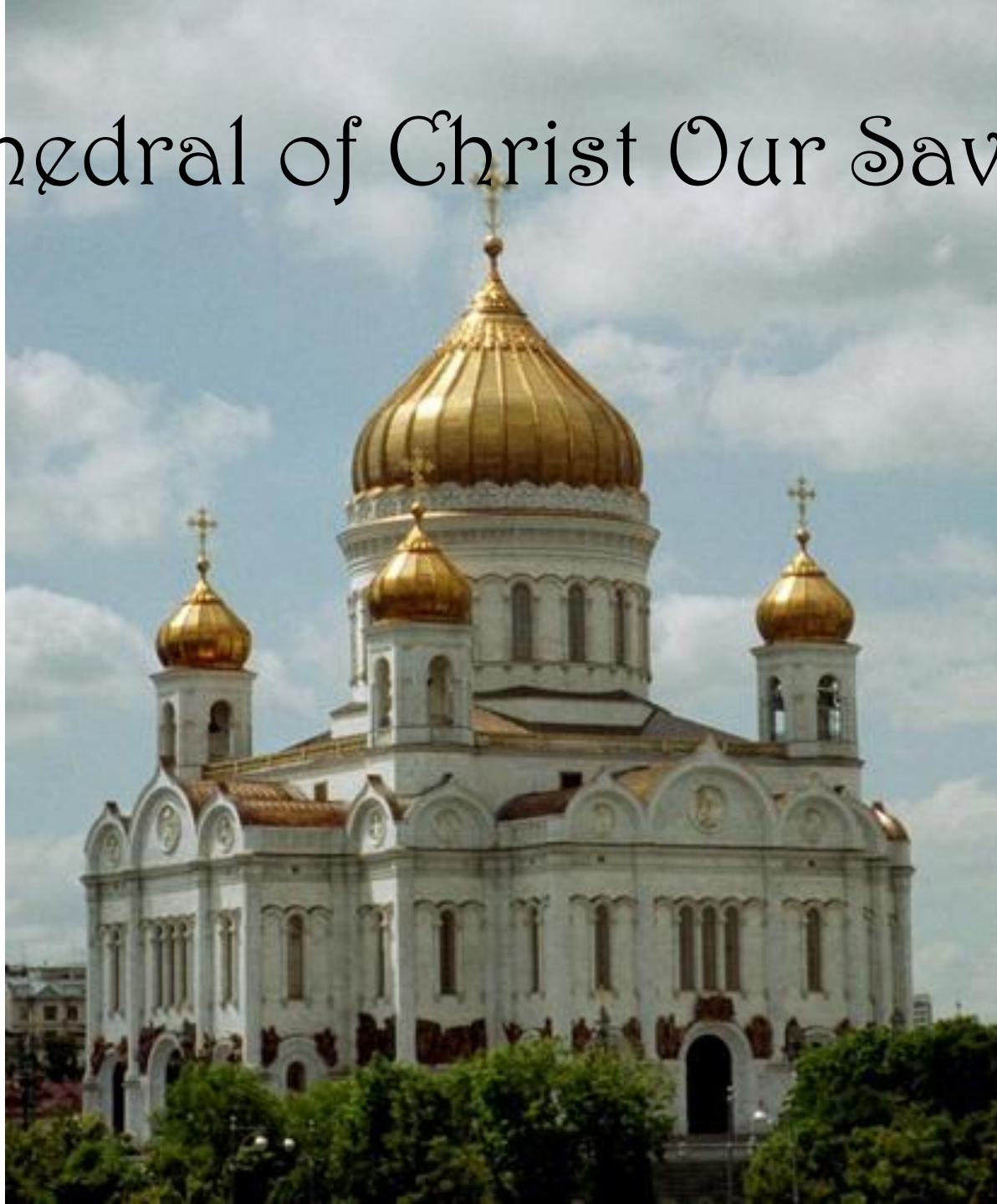
# Stalinism: the Soviet 1930's

- small peasant farms→huge collective farms
- small industries→heavy industries
  - political terror
  - major military power

**Ideology** was key

Religion ruthlessly suppressed...cathedrals destroyed

# Cathedral of Christ Our Savior



# *What was going on with the Red Army??*

- By 1926, were predicting the nature of the future war...
  - mobilization
  - chemical warfare
  - aviation...cities in the rear would be vulnerable
  - the need to industrialize
  - military training
  - the whole society will be involved



# Social Realism in Art



- *Stalin at a session of politicians at the Kremlin*  
Sergei Alekseevich Grigorev



- Poster Art:
  - left...Look Forward
  - center...Motherhood is Calling
  - right...Good Luck to the Red Army

# THE TERROR OF THE 1930's

- @10,000,000 dead
- Show trials
- Forced labor in the gulag
- Purges:
  - Red Army marshals and generals decimated in 1937-1938
  - Directed by the NKVD, the *Yezhovshchina* (Great Terror of 1937-38) was darkest period in Russian history...ended only when Nikolai Yezhov was replaced by Lavrenty Beria in December 1938

# An Unhappy Ending...

- *After Germany was defeated in 1919, the Treaty of Versailles limited German strength*
  - *Germany's army was limited to 100,000 troops and couldn't build many planes, tanks, subs, and ships over 10,000 tons Germany forbidden exceed 35% of Britain's naval strength*
- *Germany was prohibited from militarizing the Rhineland, the area of Germany next to France*
- *Germany was bitter about the unconditional surrender*

# What about Germany?

- After 1933, growth of the power of the Nazi party at the expense of the state
- All aspects of life were political
- Control of the media
  - Goebbels' “big lie”
- Hitler combated unemployment with public works
  - Autobahn
  - Volkswagen

# The World Drifts Towards War...

- *The League of Nations was weak*
  - *Unable to maintain peace and stability*
  - *Condemned attacks but did not stop them*
- *Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931*
  - *Took advantage of civil war in China*
    - *Both sides in China couldn't agree and formed a weak resistance against the Japanese*
- *Italy attacked Ethiopia*
  - *League of Nations did nothing*

# War is Inevitable

- *Hitler defied the Treaty of Versailles*
  - *Secret rebuilding of the military*
  - *Remilitarization of the Rhineland*
  - *Annexation of Austria (Anschluss) and the Sudetenland*
- *Hitler made many territorial demands in Europe*
  - *England and France followed a policy of appeasement*
    - *Neither wanted another war- they were unprepared*
    - *Demand for Polish Corridor ended appeasement*



**"...peace for our time."**

**September 29, 1938...Munich Accords**





**“We are in the presence of a disaster of the first magnitude which has befallen Great Britain and France.” Winston Churchill, autumn 1938**

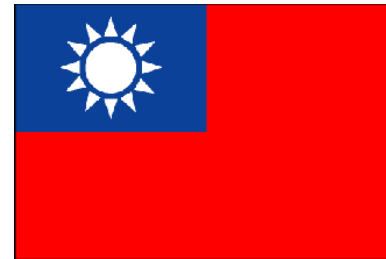
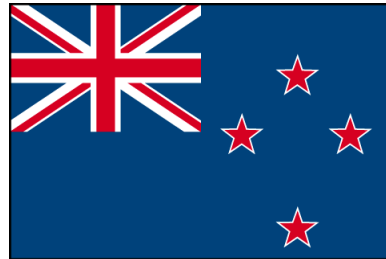
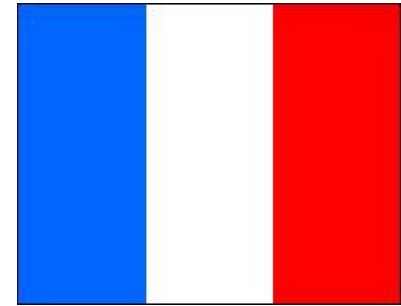
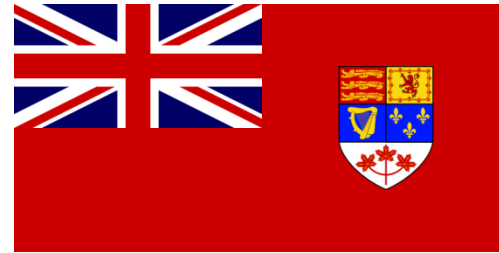
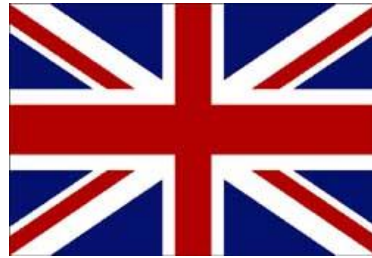
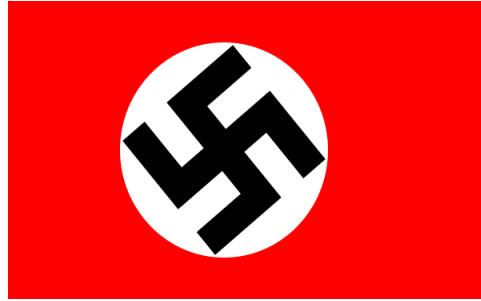


- “If Hitler had been assassinated in 1939, he would have been considered a great German leader.”

» Troy Paddock  
Southern Connecticut State University



# World War II (1939-1945)



# Blitzkrieg- Lightning War

- Germany invades Poland on Sept. 1, 1939
  - Nazi-Soviet pact agreement with Stalin gave half of Poland to the Soviet Union
    - Soviets invaded eastern Poland as well as Finland soon afterwards
      - Surrounded the Baltics and annexed part of Romania
  - Britain and France declare war on Germany as a result of the attack on Poland



# September 1, 1939







# Axis and Allies

- Britain
- France
- United States
- China
- Soviet Union (June 22, 1941)
- Italy (October 13, 1943)
- India
- Australia
- Canada



Germany

Japan

Italy

Soviet Union

Hungary

Bulgaria









# The Sitzkrieg

- Six months after Poland Attack, NADA
  - No fighting on land between the Allies and Germany
- Hitler concentrated ->Scandinavia
  - Taking Norway gave Germany new ports and airfields
    - Ports from Norway did not require ships to travel through the strait of Denmark
    - Why not Sweden???

# Maginot Line

- Extensive and complex defensive border between France and Germany
  - Heavily militarized on the French side
  - The Rhineland in Germany was still in demilitarization
- Built to prevent Germany from invading France again
  - Total failure- Germany went around it through the low countries and attacked the line from behind



# Germany Overwhelms France



- Germany invaded through the low countries May 10, 1940
  - All three surrendered in less than a week
- France surrendered on June 16, only six weeks later
  - Vichy France created
    - Collaboration- Marshall Petain



Paris, June 1940









# Operation Dynamo

- Churchill ordered the evacuation of troops from Dunkirk
  - 338,226 troops (mostly British) rescued
    - Troops left behind were forced to surrender
    - All heavy equipment abandoned- tanks, artillery
      - Germany took thousands of tons of ammunition
    - 18 large vessels (9 destroyers) and hundreds of smaller ships sank (Sank French ships too!)
      - RAF lost 177 planes to *Luftwaffe* 240
- Germany had control of most of Continental Europe



The miracle at Dunkirk





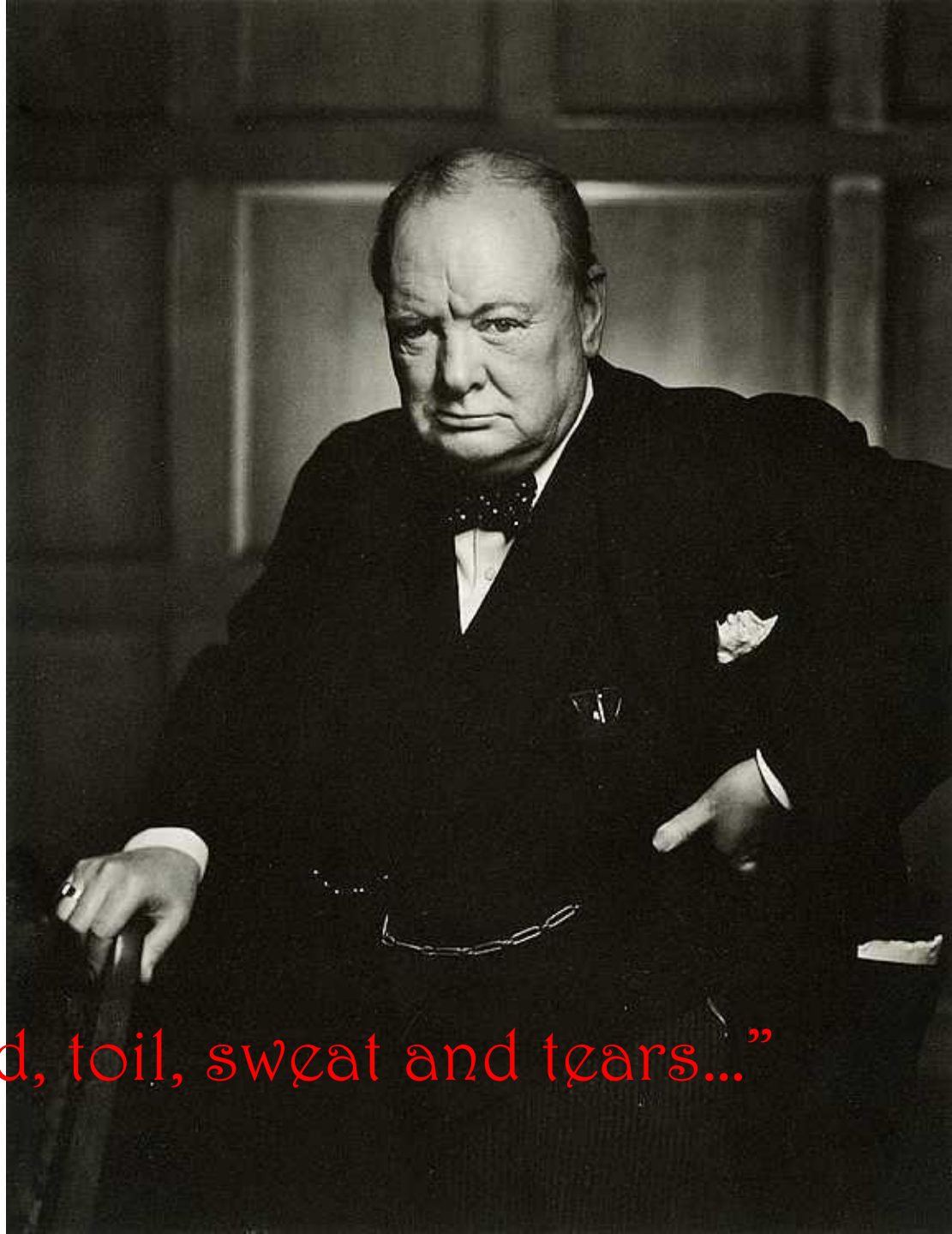
# Battle of Britain

“We shall never surrender” – Winston Churchill



- French defeat left Britain standing alone
  - The US sent supplies to England via convoys (Atlantic Charter)
    - Sent destroyers for leases on air and naval bases
- Hitler began planning an invasion- Operation Sea Lion
  - Attacks on airfields began to knock out RAF for air superiority
    - Initial attacks against airfields switched to cities
    - London was bombed day and night for 2 months- 15,000 dead
- Britain outnumbered in strength and numbers
  - *British radar was very useful*





- “Blood, toil, sweat and tears...”

*St. Paul's Cathedral...during the Blitz*



# *East London, 1940*











# On the Eastern Front...

- Germany attacked Greece and Yugoslavia in April, 1941- both fell within weeks
  - Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary all joined the war for the Axis (Croats allied w/Nazis)
- Set the stage for an attack on the USSR
  - Operation Barbarossa planned for May 15<sup>th</sup>



# *Russian Military Strategy: The Tank and more...*

- By 1938, the concept of deep battle...the use of tanks to overrun everything
  - Huge tank battalions plus aviation
  - Could sweep forward 100 km at a time
- USSR -> best tank in *WWII*: T-34
- *Stalin failed to realize the need for huge number of trucks to carry gasoline and supplies*



# **AUGUST 23, 1939**

- Molotov-Ribbentrop
- Non-Aggression Pact between Soviets and Germany
- REALPOLITIK
- Created breathing space for both sides
- A “partition” of Poland?
- Stalin agreed to supply raw materials to Germany

# 1939-1941

- 2.5→4.7 million soldiers in Russia
- Soviet aggression against Finland 1939-1940
- Soviet takeover of the Baltic states 1940
- Increasing amount of information indicating a German attack on the USSR, but Stalin refused to believe it...

# **JUNE 22, 1941**

## **BARBAROSSA**







# BARBAROSSA



# Operation Barbarossa

- Six months after the beginning of the campaign, Germans were at the gates of Leningrad, the outskirts of Moscow, and the Don River.
  - Two and a half million Russians died, 2,000 planes and more than 14,000 tanks destroyed.









ПОВЕЯТОР

За знамя ТКО



МАКСИМАЛЬНАЯ СКОРОСТЬ ПО ШОССЕ, КМ/Ч

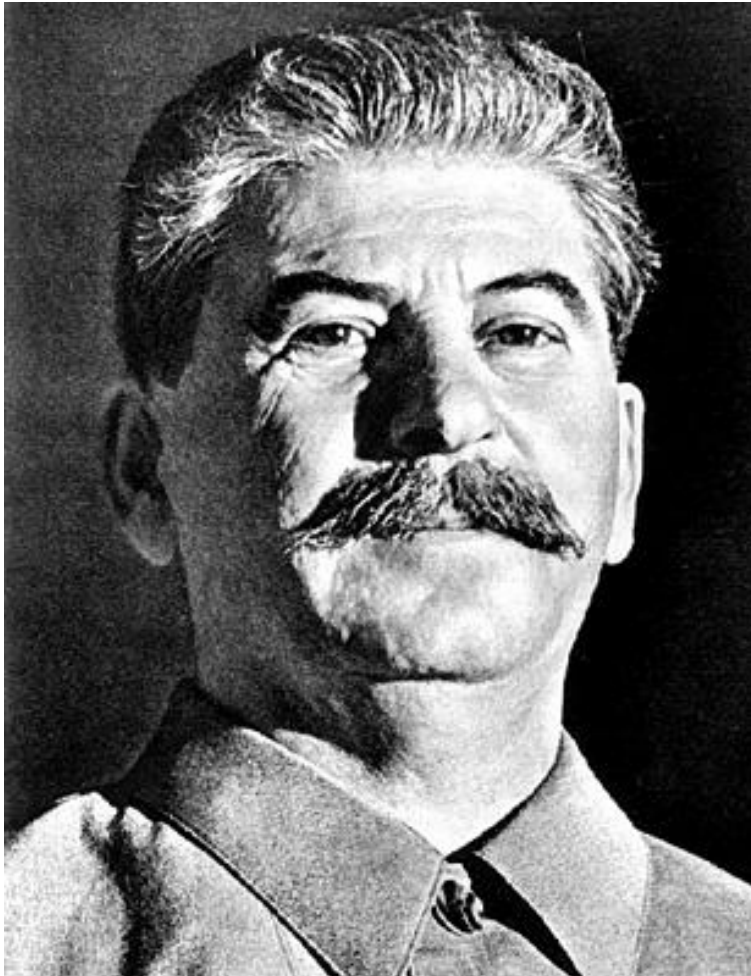
## THE T-34 MEDIUM TANK

IT WAS CREATED AT THE DESIGN BUREAU OF THE KHARKHOV LOCOMOTIVE BUILDING WORKS UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF M.I. KOSHKIN AND A.A.MOROZOV. IT WAS ADOPTED IN 1940 THE COMBINATION OF FIREPOWER, ARMOUR PROTECTION, MOBILITY AND THE CONSTRUCTION SIMPLICITY PROVIDED THE WORLD-WIDE GLORY OF THE BEST WWII TANK TO THE T-34. THE TOTAL OUTPUT FROM JUNE 1940 TO MARCH 1944 WAS 36,000 TANKS. THE T-34, THE MODEL OF 1942, WAS SHOT ON 5 DECEMBER 1942 IN A BATTLE NEAR THE ZHARKI VILLAGE OF THE NOVOSOKOLNIKI DISTRICT, THE PSKOV REGION, RAISED FROM A LAKE IN OCTOBER 1998.

### PERFORMANCE:

WEIGHT, T	30.9
CREW, PEOPLE	4
ARMAMENT: THE 76.2MM F-34 GUN / THE 7.62MM DT MACHINE-GUN	1/2
ARMOUR: THE FRONT OF THE TURRET / THE BODY, MM	70 / 47
DIESEL ENGINE POWER, HP	500
MAXIMUM ROAD SPEED, KMPH	55

# *What did Stalin do in the first few days?*



- Hid in the Kremlin...
- AWOL
- Molotov gave radio speech on 22 June
- 3 July: radio address by Stalin...
- “Forward to victory.”





# June-November 1941



# MOSCOW



- Nazi planes on the way to bomb cities

# Advance towards Moscow



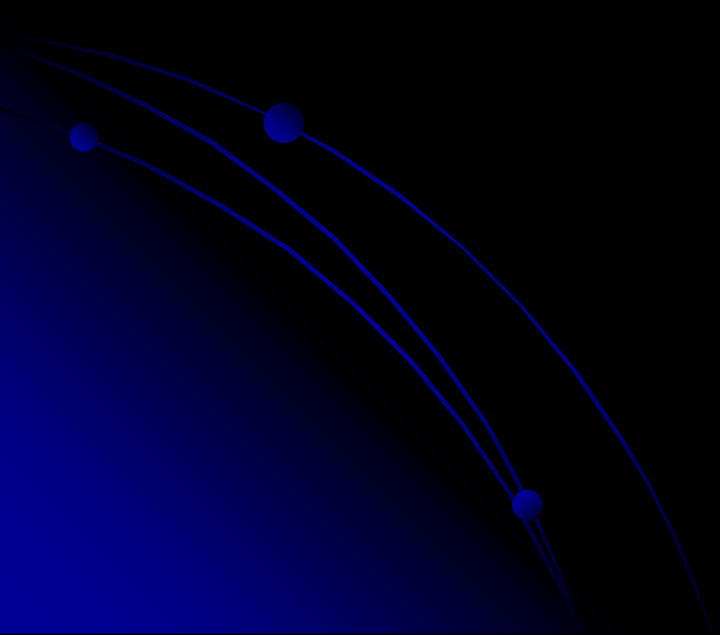


# German bomber brought down in Revolution Square



# LENINGRAD

- Siege lasted 900 days
- Almost 700,000 civilians died
- Only supplies got into the city over Lake Ladoga





# Leningrad in the first days of the war...



# Nevsky Prospekt, autumn 1941



# Supplies coming across Lake Ladoga











# Leningrad, early spring 1942







# Tania Savicheva's diary



Mina  
yupina  
8/200  
yupina  
1941

Fatyma  
yupina  
25 and  
30/200  
1942

Mina  
yupina  
8/200  
yupina  
1942

Doga Bu  
8/200  
yupina  
1942

Mina  
8/200  
yupina  
1942

Doga  
8/200  
yupina  
1942

Cabur  
8/200  
yupina  
1942

Fatima  
8/200  
yupina  
1942

Mina  
8/200  
yupina  
1942

# ST. ISAAC'S CATHEDRAL

- The dome was painted gray during the siege...









# Piskaryovskoe





- 
- 670,000 died and are buried in mass graves...



# Stalingrad







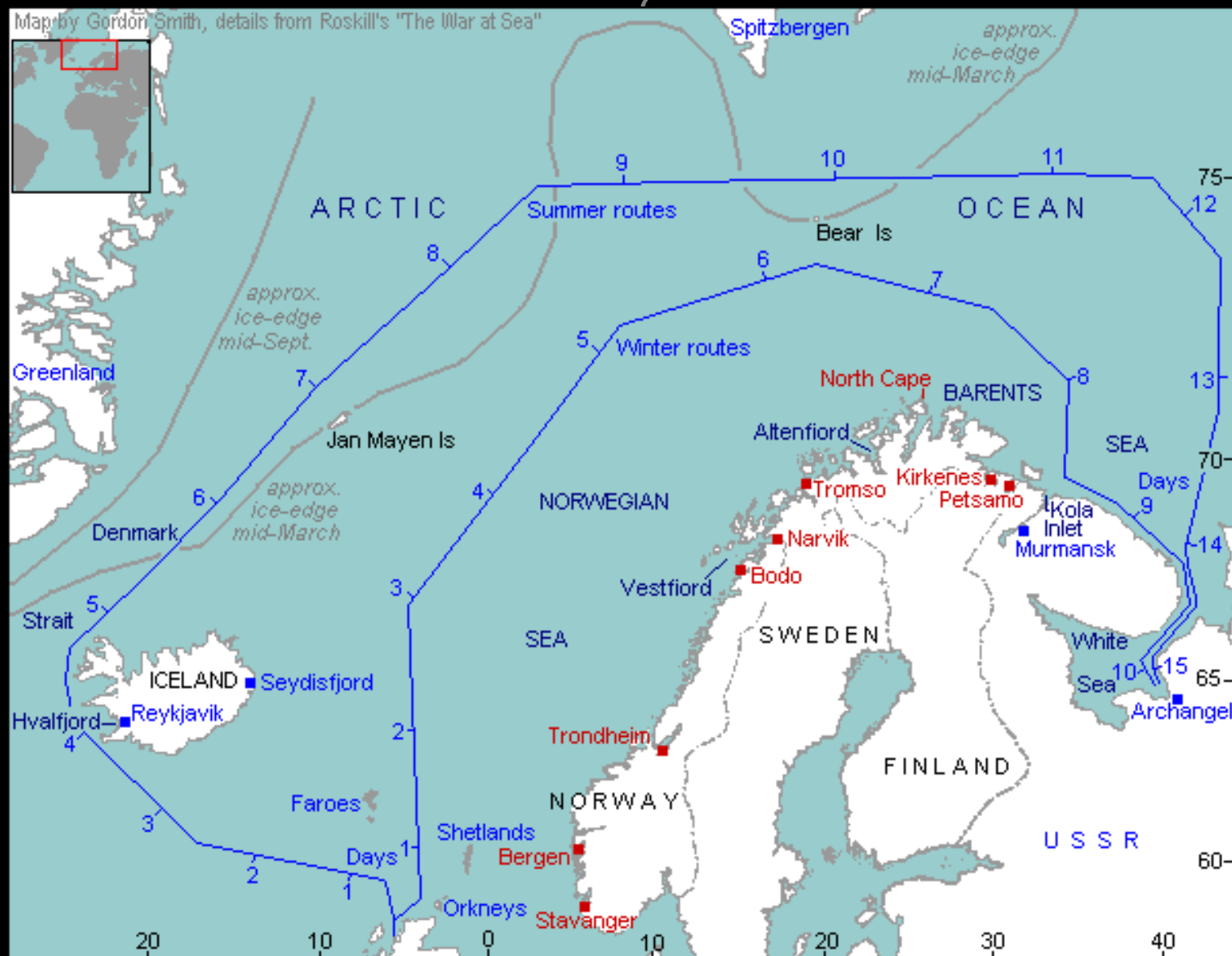


# Russian industrial complexes

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- Located around Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev
- After attack, many were totally packed up, loaded on trains and moved to the Urals
- Enabled Soviets to continue to produce war materials
- Factories did not fall into German hands

# Allied Convoys to Russia





# Lend Lease

- Made a huge difference
- Studebaker trucks
- Locomotives and rolling stock



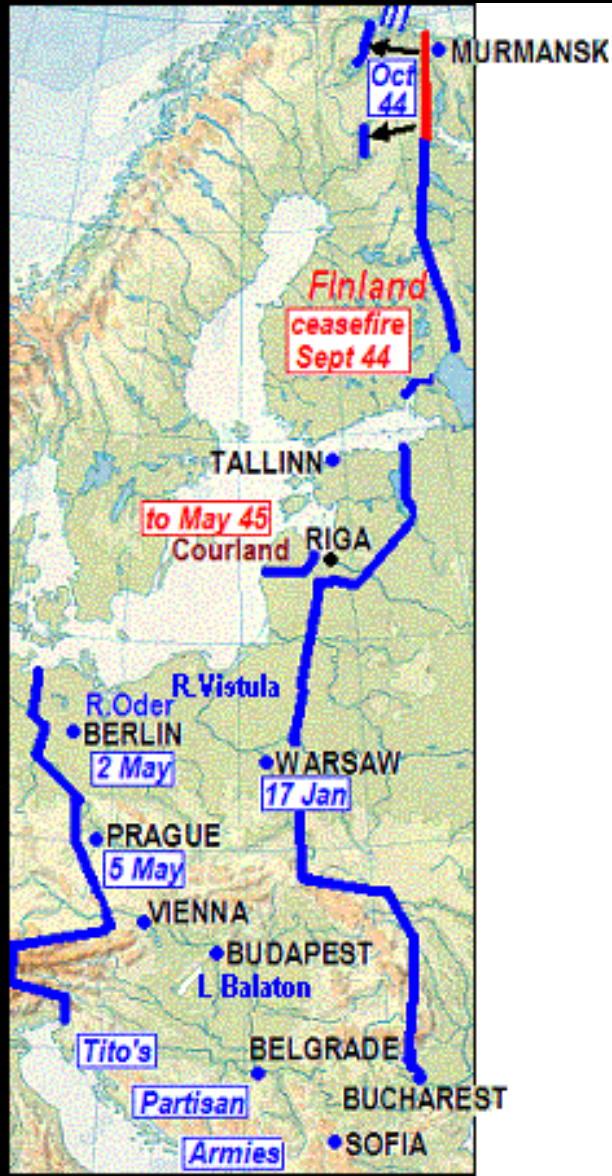
# November 1942-May 1943

- Leningrad siege partially lifted
- Great Russian victory at Kursk





# Eastern Front: Sept. 1944-May 1945



- barbarity and atrocity
- Huge casualties in pow camps
- Soviets paid the Germans back for their brutality
- More German soldiers killed (10 million) than in all the prior years of the war

# THE WAR WAS DECIDED ON THE EASTERN FRONT...

- 22 June 1941: German forces crossed the Russian border from the Baltic to the Black Sea
- 3.6 million soldiers along a 1000 mile front
- 3 huge army groups
- By autumn, 3 million Russians were POW's
- By November 1941, Germans were 80 miles from Moscow
- Leningrad under siege
- Germans moving toward Stalingrad and the Volga

# THE WAR WAS DECIDED

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- By the end of 1941, the Germans had lost the war
  - The failure of Centre Group to take Moscow
  - Diversion of resources to Group South
  - US entry into the war

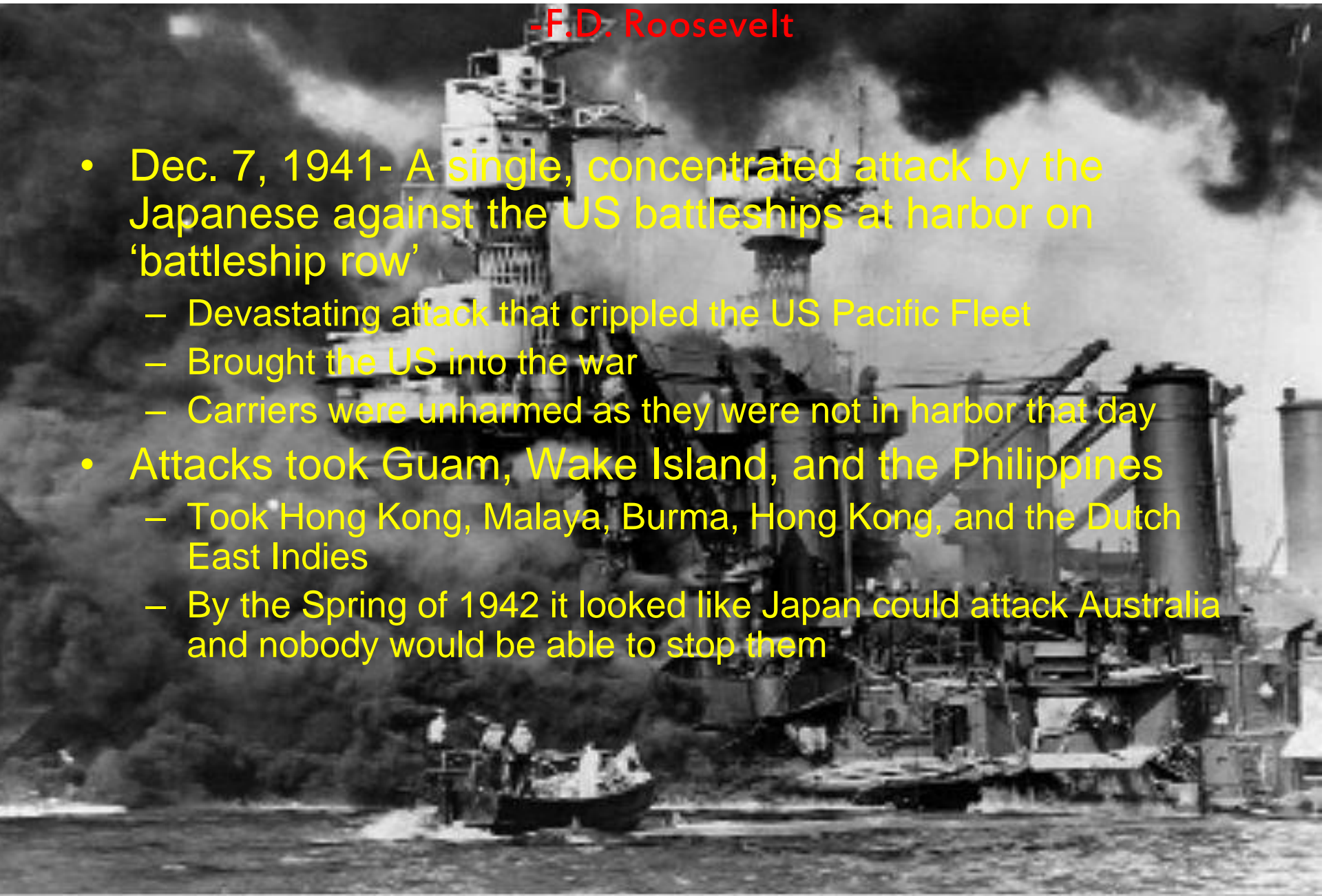




# "A date which will live in infamy"

-F.D. Roosevelt

- Dec. 7, 1941- A single, concentrated attack by the Japanese against the US battleships at harbor on 'battleship row'
  - Devastating attack that crippled the US Pacific Fleet
  - Brought the US into the war
  - Carriers were unharmed as they were not in harbor that day
- Attacks took Guam, Wake Island, and the Philippines
  - Took Hong Kong, Malaya, Burma, Hong Kong, and the Dutch East Indies
  - By the Spring of 1942 it looked like Japan could attack Australia and nobody would be able to stop them



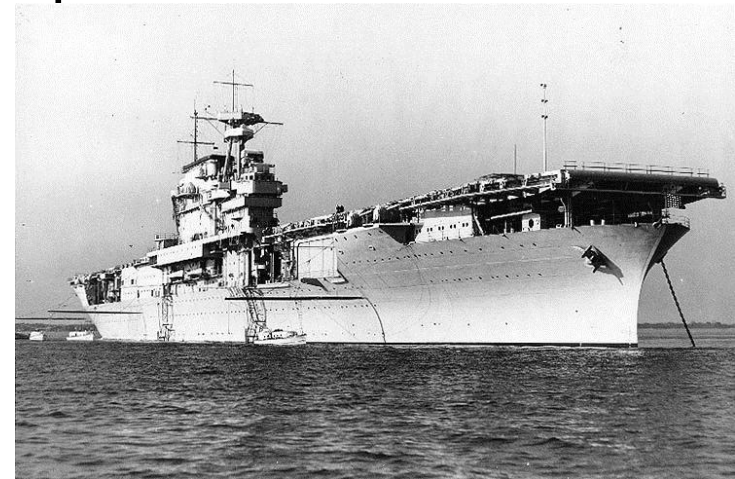


# Aerial view of Pearl Harbor



# A turning Point: Midway

- Battle of the Coral Islands demonstrated the importance of aircraft carriers- US lost CV Lexington
- Japan planned to invade Midway
  - US intercepted naval transmissions and sent 3 carriers to defend Midway
    - Among these was the Yorktown, believed to have sank at the Coral Sea
- Japan faced more resistance than expected
  - Suffered crushing defeat









# AFRICA 1942



- Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery

# The campaign in north Africa 1942

## Why Africa?

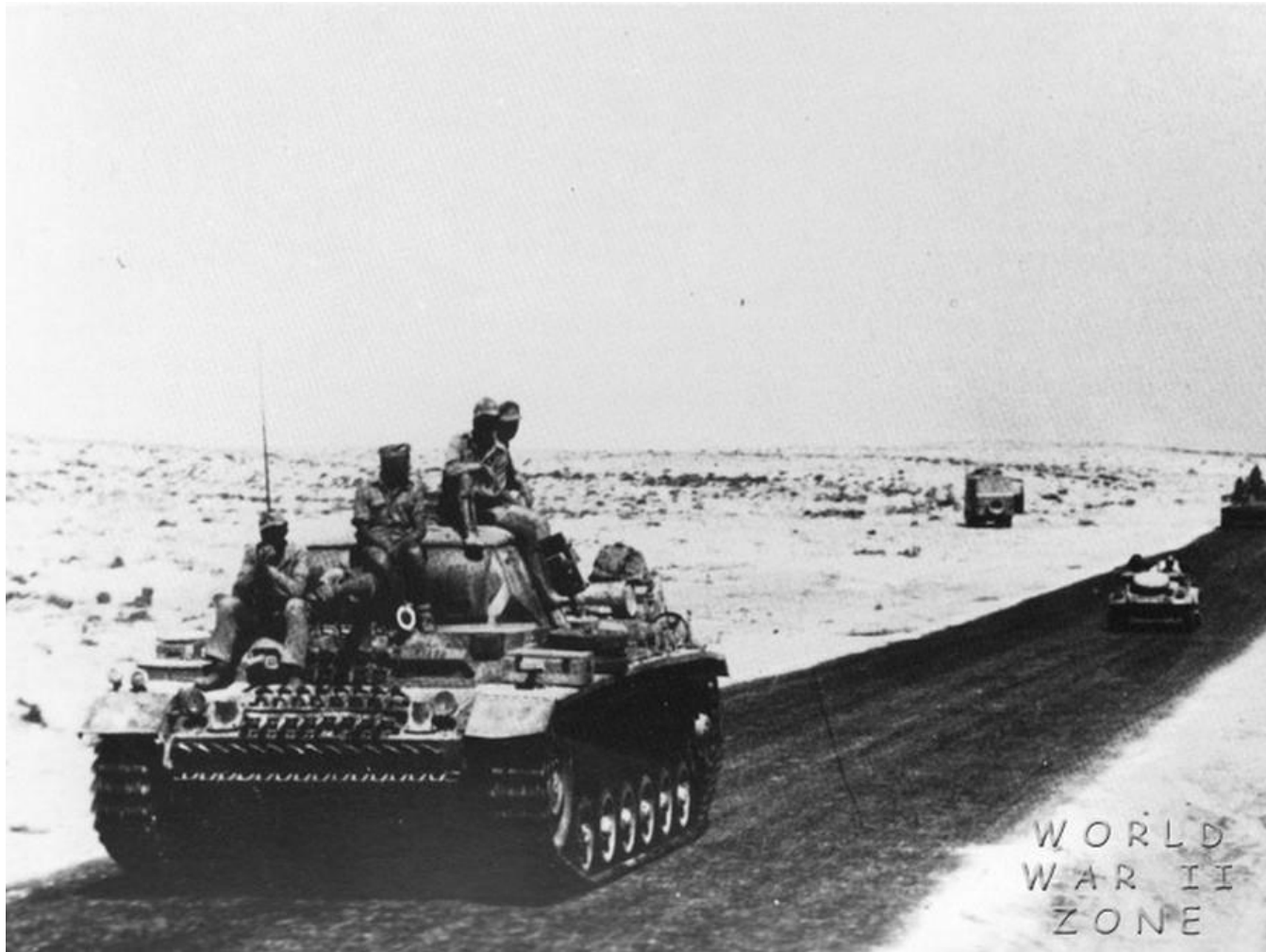


->DISRUPT BRITISH TRADE (SUEZ CANAL/EGYPT/INDIA)

->GERMAN'S SHORT ON PETROLEUM-> DEVELOPED SYNTHETIC OIL (AND RUBBER-  
IN ANTICIPATION WAR)

NEAR EAST AND CAUCUSES (RUSSIA) ALREADY PRODUCING OIL

# German Panzer heading across the desert



# El Alamein





Aussies July 1942



Germans driven from Africa



Rommel studying a map...

# *The Desert Fox*

- Outwitted Allied commanders for months in the African desert
  - Respected as a great commander and man by friends and adversaries alike
  - Although it was clear Germany could not hold Africa, Rommel was able to delay the inevitable
- Allies finally took Italy in May of 1943- Rommel had gone back to Germany to defend Europe

*"Anybody who came under the spell of his personality turned into a real soldier. He seemed to know what the enemy were like and how they would react."* - German Soldier of WWI



Field Marshall Erwin Rommel

*"We have a very daring and skillful opponent against us, and, may I say across the havoc of war, a great General."* - Churchill



# Allied Offensives...the “soft underbelly”...


- Stalin urged the Western powers to open up a front to relieve pressure on his troops
- Successful campaigns had finally pushed Germany out of Africa in May 1943
- Allies took Sicily in July 1943...then on to the mainland...
  - Mussolini forced to resign- new Italian leader switched alignment
  - Germany took Italy- not freed until 1945

# Americans landed at Anzio





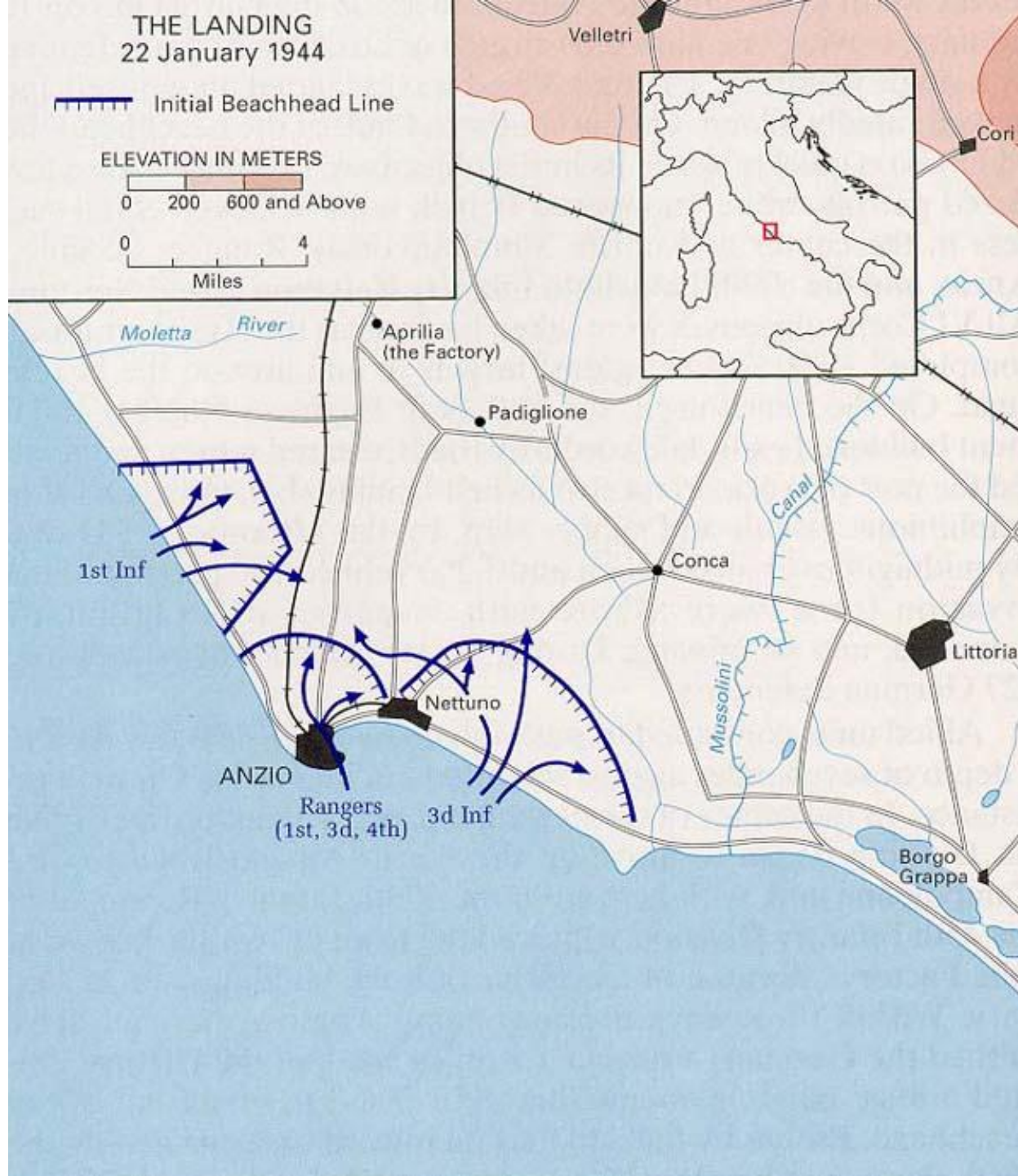
# THE LANDING 22 January 1944

 Initial Beachhead Line

ELEVATION IN METERS

0 200 600 and Above

0 4  
Miles



# Unloading American tanks...

## May 1944



# 1944-1945...Normandy to Germany

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- Race for Berlin began
- Realization that where the lines were when the war ended would determine post war governments
- Yalta..January 1945



# Operation Overlord: D-Day

- June 6, 1944- Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy
  - Americans landed at Utah and Omaha
  - British landed at Gold and Sword
    - Canadians landed at Juno
- Airborne units had been dropped in the night before to create chaos
  - Most of the units were scattered and many were surrounded
    - US 101<sup>st</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> airborne
    - British 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne



**“Full victory, nothing else.”**  
**Dwight D. Eisenhower**

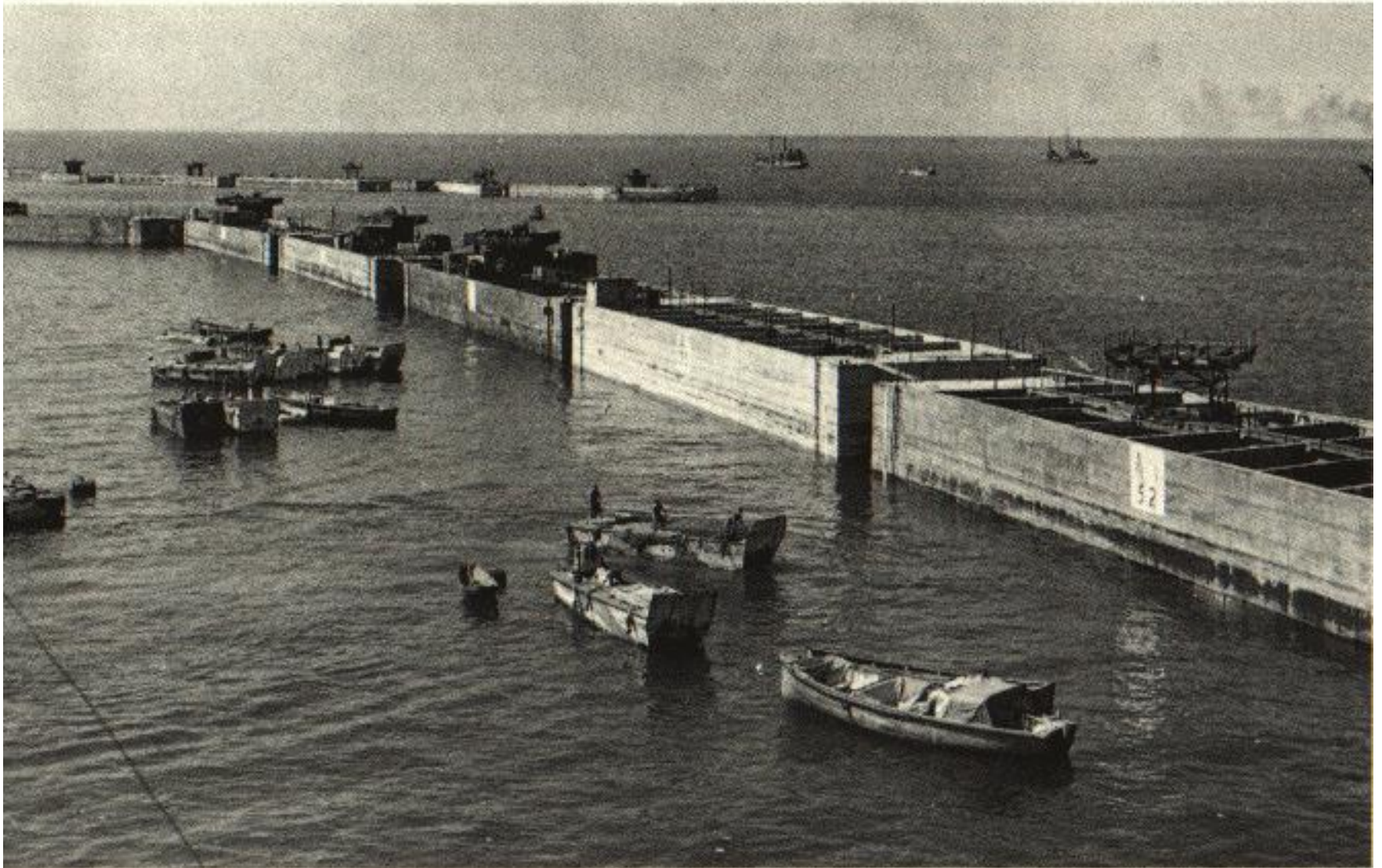


# Landing on the coast of Normandy





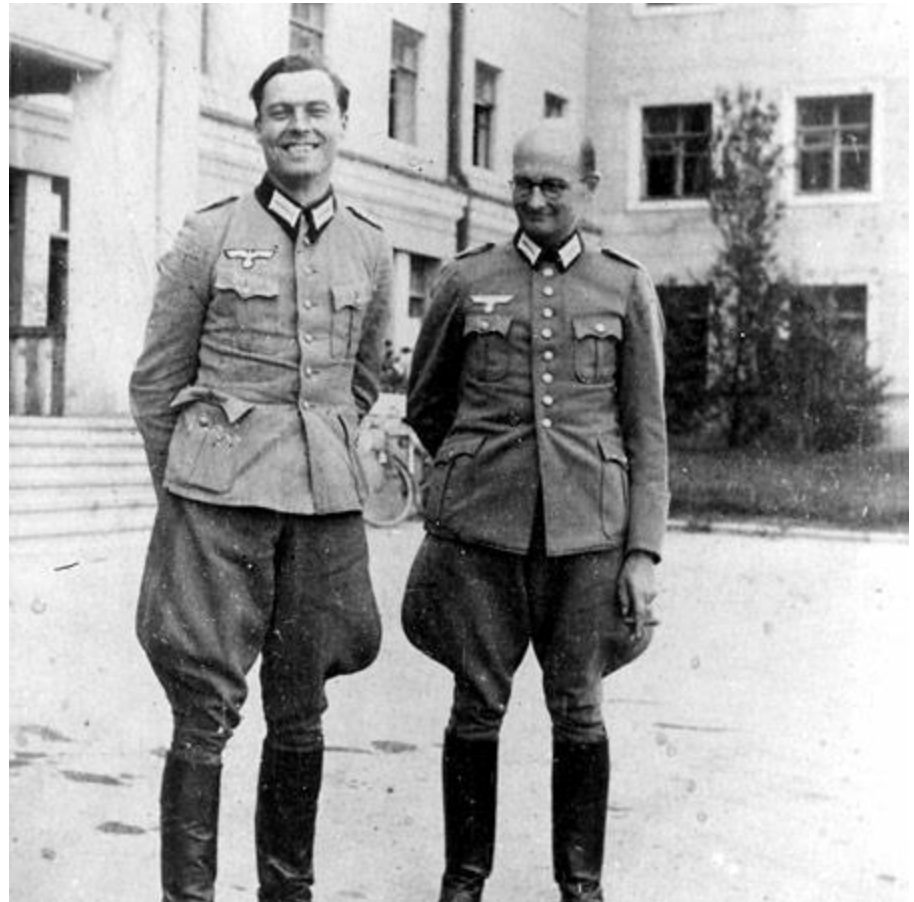
# Mulberry harbor..."Port Winston"





# GERMAN RESISTANCE...

- The Wolf's Lair
- July 20, 1944



# Allies push towards the Rhine

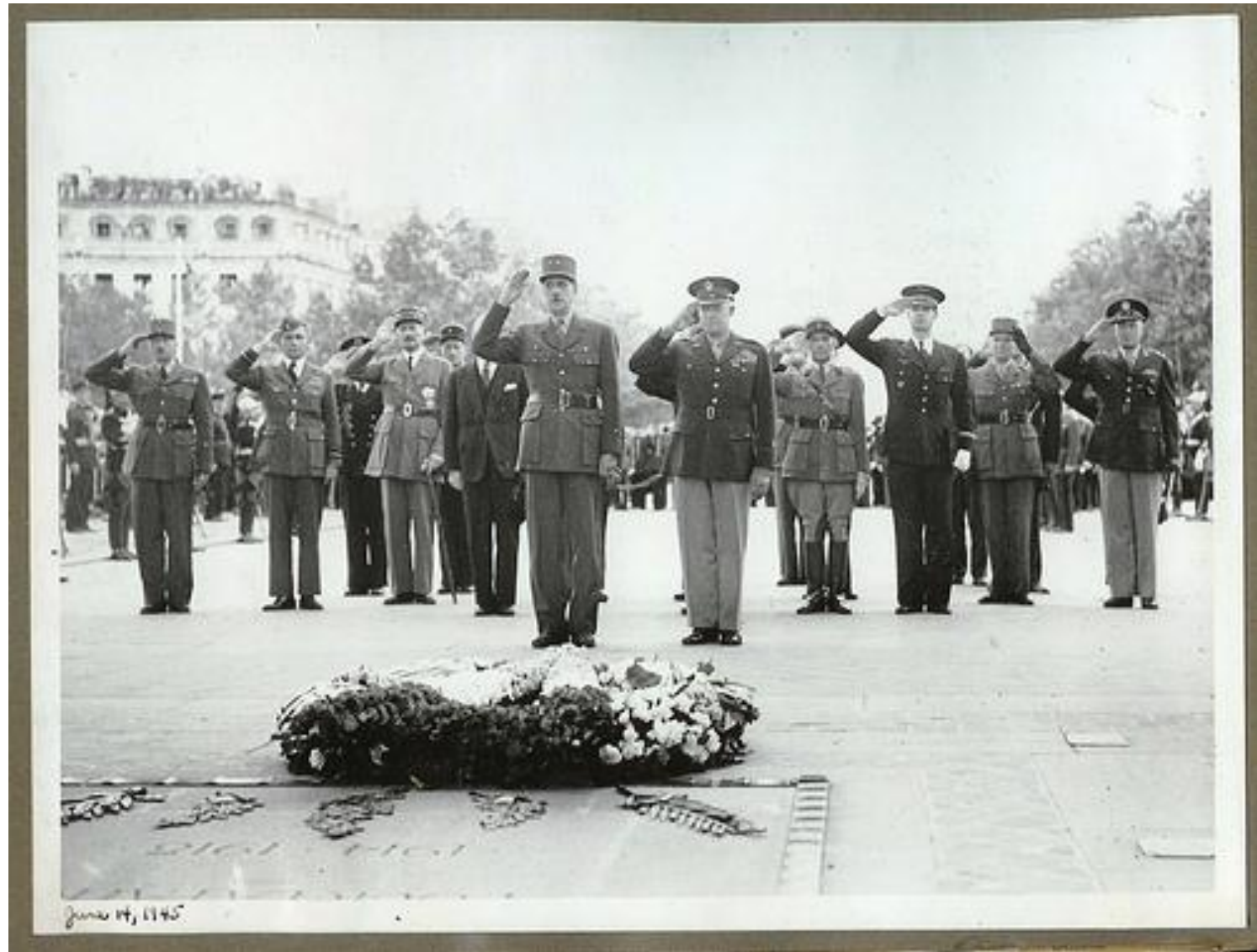
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- Allies ->Paris -August
  - Germans retreating faster than Allies could advance
- Operation Market Garden was planned
  - Objective: secure a series of bridges that would lead the Allies into Germany
  - Market Garden was the largest airborne operation in history, but it failed
    - One highway that was too narrow slowed the armored advance too much

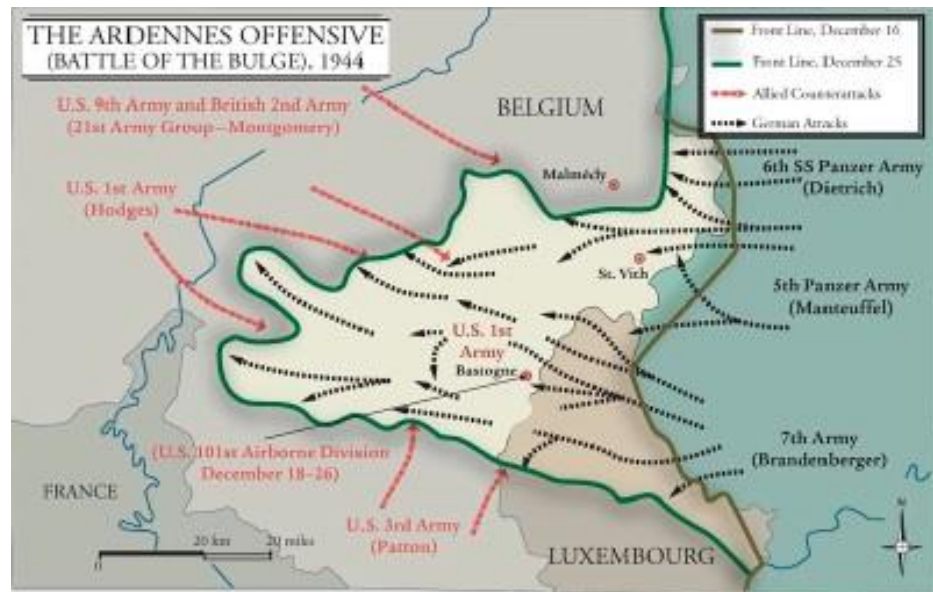
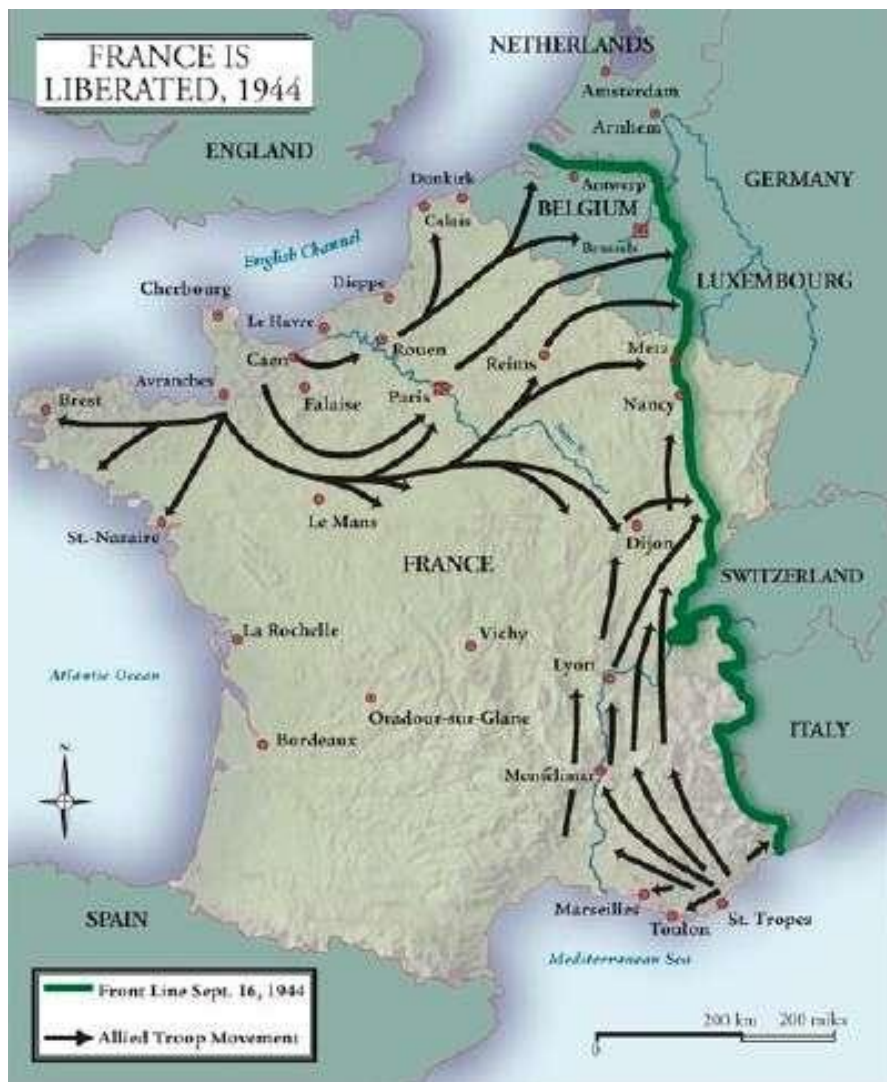
# The liberation of Paris...August 1944



# Generals DeGaulle and Eisenhower







# Battle of the Bulge

- 1944 German winter offensive- attacked the weak allied line in the Ardennes
  - Last major German offensive of the war
  - Germans had advantage in numbers and armor
    - Planes were no factor because of poor weather
- Many units were surrounded
  - US 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne trapped at Bastogne







GERMAN TANK DECEMBER 1944



GEN. GEORGE PATTON



AMERICAN TROOPS: BATTLE OF THE BULGE



# Supreme Commander, Allied Forces in Europe







AMERICAN SOLDIERS LIBERATING OHRDRUF APRIL 1945



FRENCH TROOPS IN BERLIN

# May 1945

THE BRANDENBURG GATE







Hitler goes into the underground bunker in Berlin...mid April 1945





# Hitler married Eva Braun

## April 1945







# BERLIN APRIL 1945





# The Holocaust

- ⦿ Source of the genocide in the Nazi philosophy
- ⦿ w/o WWI and its “assembly line death”, there would have been no possibility for a holocaust
- ⦿ Anti-Semitism was attractive
- ⦿ Why kill??...because they could



15 August 1941

- Hitler decided to exterminated Europe's Jews

ARBEIT  
MACHT FREI



# January 1942...the Wannsee Conference

- The “final solution” was formulated here...







# As a result of Wannsee..

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- ❑ More camps
- ❑ Deportation from all over occupied Europe
- ❑ Transportation to labor and death camps
- ❑ 5 million Jews dead by 1944, 1 million after
- ❑ 3 million Jews killed in Poland/91% of pre war population
- ❑ Destruction of the Yiddish language
- ❑ Destruction of the balance of orthodox and assimilated Jews and much of the culture of eastern Europe





# Liberation by the Allies...





# Bergen Belsen



Photo # USA C-2337 Senior Allied delegates celebrate after Germany had surrendered, 7 May 1945



# Occupation Zones/Germany





# Island Hopping



- ❑ Allies were taking one island at a time in the Pacific on a campaign to Japan
  - Japan lost all of its conquered territories one by one
  - They defended each one relentlessly
- ❑ Heavy casualties on both sides
  - Especially fierce fighting at Iwo Jima and Okinawa
  - Invasion of mainland Japan came with a projected 1 million allied casualties
    - ❑ Helped lead to decision to ‘end the war with a bang’

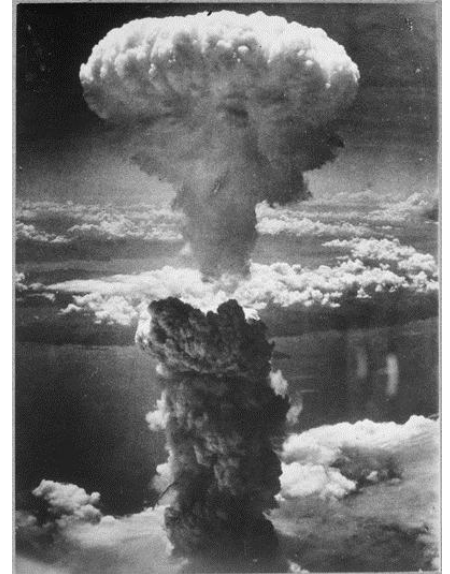


# Potsdam July 1945



# The War Comes to a Close

- Aug. 6- Hiroshima- Atomic bomb dropped- 80,000 dead
- Aug. 9- Nagasaki- second bomb dropped 40,000 dead
- “I cannot bear to see my innocent people suffer any longer” — Emperor Hirohito surrenders
  - Formal surrender on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945





**HIROSHIMA AUGUST 6, 1945**



Nagasaki August 9, 1945








Photo # 80-G-332701 Gen. Umezu signs instrument of surrender, 2 Sept. 1945

**THE RUSSIANS WON THE  
SECOND WORLD WAR AIDED  
BY BRITISH STUBBORNNESS  
AND AMERICAN  
TECHNOLOGY....**

**Jay Winter, Yale**

- 
- 
- ❑ From 1648 and the Peace of Westphalia to 1945, the nation-state was sovereign. That notion died with the Holocaust.